

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS A KNOWLEDGE OF THE
COLEOPTERA OF AUSTRALIA.

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No. I.—NEW SPECIES OF CARABIDÆ.

LACORDAIRIA TERRENA, sp. n.

Black, shining, somewhat depressed; prothorax impunctate, slightly constricted behind, with a deeply impressed median line, the margins reflexed; elytra moderately strongly striate, the interstices rather narrow, flat and impunctate.

Head narrow, impunctate. Antennæ moderately long, the first three joints pitchy, the following ones dark reddish testaceous, the basal joint rather long, the second much shorter, the third somewhat longer, the following joints of about equal length, covered with fine yellow pubescence. Prothorax slightly transverse, the anterior angles rounded, the basal foveæ well marked. Elytra moderately broad, slightly convex, with narrow reflexed margins, a minute fovea on the second stria, just before the middle. Underside black, with a greenish tinge, shining, impunctate. Legs black, the trochanters, tips of the tibiæ and tarsi reddish testaceous. Length, 5 mm.

Mount Kosciusko, New South Wales (5700 feet).

A single specimen, which I conclude from its broad anterior tarsi to be a male, was obtained by Mr. Edward Meyrick in January last, near the summit of Mount Kosciusko. The species

may at once be known by its small size, robust form ; by its comparatively narrow prothorax being a little constricted behind ; by its closely and distinctly striated elytra ; and by the colour of its antennæ and legs.

I am by no means satisfied with the position assigned by Count de Castelnau to his genus *Lacordairia*. It appears to me that notwithstanding the great development of the palpi its affinities are more with the later tribes of the Geodephaga, such as the Anchomeninæ, than with the Pamboridæ from which it is widely separated by having the intermediate coxal cavities enclosed by the sterna and the epimeron not reaching the coxa. The head is furnished with two supra-orbital punctures. I am not able to come to any definite conclusion as to the position of the genus as I have no specimens available for dissection. I hope, however, to enter more fully into the subject hereafter.

XANTHOPHÆA PALLIDA, sp. n.

Elongate, pale testaceous, shining ; head rather long, considerably narrowed behind the eyes ; prothorax moderately strongly constricted behind ; elytra not very strongly punctate-striate.

Head impunctate ; eyes black, very prominent. Antennæ moderately long, the basal joint thickened, the second very short, the third about as long as the first, the following joints pubescent and of nearly equal lengths. Prothorax very slightly longer than broad, narrowed and moderately constricted behind, with narrow reflexed lateral margins ; the anterior angles obtuse ; the median line distinct. Elytra about twice as long as the head and prothorax together, narrower in front than behind, moderately strongly and closely punctate-striate, the interstices rather broad, slightly raised, and sparingly and not very distinctly punctured ; humeral angles not prominent. Underside and legs coloured as above ; tips of the mandibles and claws pitchy. Length, 11 mm. ; greatest width, $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

King George's Sound, West Australia; Bateman's Bay, New South Wales. Under bark.

This fine *Xanthophaea* will readily be recognised by its uniform testaceous colour, smooth surface and narrowly margined prothorax.

GENUS PLAGIOTELUM.

Solier in Gay's Hist. de Chile, Zool. IV., p. 132 (1849).

The species which I here refer to this genus, hitherto only known from Chili and Port Famine, near the Straits of Magellan, is interesting as being a new and striking example of an Australian form, finding its nearest ally in a genus from the west coast of South America.

PLAGIOTELUM OPALESCENS, n. sp.

Testaceous, shining, with bright green reflections; head and prothorax bright metallic green, the latter with the sides only slightly narrowed behind; elytra iridescent, moderately strongly striate, the apex dark green.

Head considerably longer than broad, narrowed behind, impunctate, the antennal impressions distinct; epistoma truncated in front. Antennæ reddish testaceous, the basal joint moderately long, the second very short, the third longer than the following joints which are covered with fine pubescence. Prothorax a little broader than long, slightly narrowed behind, finely aciculate near the sides; anterior angles very slightly produced; the lateral margins rather strongly reflexed; the median line not very distinct. Elytra moderately convex, about twice as long as the head and prothorax together, a little narrower in front than behind, rather strongly striate, the interstices moderately broad, slightly raised and impunctate; humeral angles rather prominent; the lateral margins reflexed. Underside bright metallic green, with bluish reflections; the sides of the head and sterna extremely finely

aciculate. Legs pale reddish testaceous, apical halves of the femora and the tips of the tibiæ dusky. Length, 9 mm.; greatest width, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Mount Wellington, Tasmania (3000 feet).

Differs from *Plagiotelum irinum*, Solier (l. c. Atlas, pl. 1, fig. 3) in colour and marking, in having the sides of the prothorax straighter and less narrowed behind and the elytral striæ rather more distinct. A single specimen of this pretty species was obtained by Mr. Masters from beneath the loosened bark of *Eucalyptus*.

CATASCOPUS CHALYDICUS, sp. n.

Elongate, metallic green, with steel-blue reflexions; head and prothorax tinged with coppery-green; elytra strongly punctate-striate, the fifth interstice narrow, the seventh costiform.

Head rather broad, strongly aciculate longitudinally on each side at the anterior margin, strongly and sparingly punctured on the basal half; clypeus coppery, finely punctured. Prothorax considerably broader than long, strongly narrowed and constricted behind, finely aciculate transversely, a few irregular punctures in front; median line moderately strong, impressed just behind the anterior margin and at the base; anterior angles slightly produced; the lateral margins narrowly reflexed. Elytra rather broad, about one and a half times as long as the head and prothorax together, strongly punctate-striate, the punctures stronger towards the sides, the interstices, except the fifth and seventh, rather broad and very slightly convex; the external apical angle acute. Underside and legs dark coppery green. Length, 15 mm.; greatest width, $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Richmond River, New South Wales.

More nearly allied to *Catascopus Chaudoiri* than to any other Australian species, but readily distinguished by its brighter colour, more robust form and strongly punctured elytra.

NO. II.—ON A NEW SPECIES OF RHYSODIDÆ.

The following species from the collection of the Macleay Museum represents a family hitherto unobserved in Australia.

RHYSODES LIGNARIUS, sp. n.

Elongate pitchy-black, shining; head rather broad, impunctate, with a oblique groove on each side extending from the base of the antennæ to the middle of the posterior margin; the head considerably swollen behind these grooves; prothorax narrowed behind, with a strongly impressed median groove, and an equally strong slightly out-curved groove on each side extending from the anterior margin to just before the base; elytra rather strongly punctate-striate.

Head with a fine reflexed anterior margin; eyes moderately prominent. Antennæ finely pubescent. Prothorax not much longer than broad, strongly narrowed behind, impunctate, the dorsal grooves foveolate at the base; the sides strongly rounded; the posterior angles somewhat acute. Elytra at the base a little broader than the prothorax; humeral angles moderately prominent; each elytron with seven rather strongly punctured striæ, the interstices moderately broad, slightly convex and impunctate; the apex distinctly rugose-punctate, not shining. Underside coloured as above; the prosternum irregularly rugose-punctate; meso- and metasternum very strongly punctured at the sides, a

longitudinal impression in the middle containing an irregular row of punctures ; abdominal segments strongly punctured. Legs pitchy ; anterior tibiæ with a short spine near the apex. Length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Yass, New South Wales (G. Salting). In rotten wood.

Differs from all the species known to me in its broad form, and in having its comparatively short prothorax decidedly narrowed behind. Judging by descriptions it may be separated from the New Zealand species by having each elytron furnished with seven striae.